<u>IN THE ABSTRACT:</u>

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~Disclosed is an~~ <u>An</u> image processing apparatus <u>has</u> ~~having~~ a large number of image processing functions, in which resources necessary for code processing units can be suppressed while a large-scale decline in performance is prevented. The apparatus includes ~~a plurality of~~ code processing <u>units</u> ~~unit (310)~~ for executing coding and decoding of image data, and ~~a plurality of~~ request-source task units ~~(301 to 308)~~ (print function, scanner function and FAX transceive function)<u>, which</u> ~~. The request-source task units~~ request any <u>one</u> ~~ones~~ of the ~~plurality of~~ code converters to perform ~~a~~ code conversion of image data. The number of request-source task units is greater than the number of code converters and a degree of priority has been set for each one. A ~~code-processing acquisition~~ determination unit ~~(309)~~ always assigns the ~~plurality of~~ code converting units to processing requests from request-source task units ~~(301 to 304)~~ having a high priority and, if there is an idle code converting unit ~~among the plurality of code converting units~~, assigns the code converting unit to a processing request from <u>a</u> request-source task unit ~~(305 to 308)~~ having a low priority.

- 3 -